



Security Council

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LETTER DATED 28 FEBRUARY 1994 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE
OF CAMEROON TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT
OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

I have the honour to transmit to you the text of the following letter from His Excellency Mr. Ferdinand Leopold Oyono, Minister for Foreign Affairs, concerning the incident on 18 and 19 February 1994 involving units of our army stationed in the Cameroonian peninsula of Bakassi and units of the Nigerian army.

"Sir,

"1. On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to draw to your attention and to that of members of the Security Council the following facts:

"2. On 18 February 1994 between 1500 hours and 1800 hours and on 19 February between 0130 hours and 0345 hours, the armed forces of the Federal Republic of Nigeria launched brutal attacks on our troops stationed in the Cameroonian peninsula of Bakassi thereby violating Cameroon's territorial integrity.

"3. On instructions from General Abacha, following a security council meeting over which he presided, military aircraft on a reconnaissance mission violated, on the above-mentioned date, our airspace above the peninsula of Bakassi.

"4. As early as 31 December 1993, Nigerian troops had invaded Jabane-Abana and Diamond Island, villages in that same peninsula. The Federal Government subsequently proclaimed that it had recovered its 'historical sovereignty' over the peninsula and had joined it to the federated States of Akwa Ibom and Cross River.

"5. My Government wishes to recall that Cameroon's sovereignty over the peninsula of Bakassi is indisputable and results from:

- The German-British treaty of 11 March 1913;

- The borders automatically resulting from the outcome of the referendum of 11 February 1961 which led, inter alia, to the linking of the southern part of Cameroon under British administration to the former East Cameroon;
- The Maroua Declaration delimiting the maritime and island boundaries between Nigeria and Cameroon.

"6. My Government wishes to affirm its determination to settle this dispute by peaceful means in full observance of the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations. At the same time, my Government will continue to seek the appropriate international framework in which to resolve this issue.

"Given that this matter has implications for peace and security in the region, I have the honour to request an urgent meeting of the Security Council.

"I should also be grateful if you would have the text of this letter circulated as a Security Council document.

(Signed) Ferdinand Leopold OYONO
Minister for Foreign Affairs"

(Signed) Pascal BILOA TANG
Permanent Representative
Ambassador Extraordinary
and Plenipotentiary
